(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A special release of 3000 KL HSD was made for Kerala in January 1991 due to the Sabrimala pilgrim season. A special release of 1100 KL HSD has been made for Kerala in February 1991 to meet requirements of the agriculture sector. These releases are over and above the normal entitlement for the State.

Use of Solar Energy in Remote Areas

174. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Solar energy brings life to Mizo village' which appeared in the Financial Express, New Delhi dated 30th January, 1991, to the effect that the tribals of the remote Jampui hills in the tri-junction of Tripura-Mizoram-Bangladesh border have now access to electricity through a solar photovoltaic system;

(b) whether it is a fact that the solar energy at present is used only for entertainment purposes with the objective of integrating the tribals with the national mainstream;

(c) if so, whether Government have drawn up any plan to use solar power in minor irrigation/cooking purposes; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take for providing electricity in remote areas through non-conventional sources of energy, especially in areas which are situated far away from the main grid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Solar energy systems are presently being demonstrated and utilised for various appilcations like lighting, water pumping, community television, communications, railway signalling, water heating and cooking etc. Under the demonstration programme of Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (DNES), SPV water pumping systems are provided for minor irrigation and under Solar Thermal Extension Programme (STEP) of DNES, solar cookers are sold at subsidised price for cooking Department of Non-Conventional Energy sources is also implementing demonstration programme for electrification of remote villages/hamlets using solar photovolta power plants and biomass gasfires.

Supply of quality steam coal from Eastern Coalfields Limited

175. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a feature titled 'Battle for Survival' which appeared in the daily Financial Express, New Dehi, dated the 17th January, 1991 highlighting the plight of small scale pottery units in the capital on account of irreguar and short supply of steam coal;

(b) whether it is a fact that although the Railways agreed to supply 96 wagons in 1990 for movement of coal from Eastern Coalfields Limited, Eastern Coalfields did not supply even 50 per cent of the allotted coal; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take for the supply of quality steam coal from Eastern Coalfields Limited to avoid sickness in this small scale industry?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): (a) to (c) There has been shortfall in production of steam coal in Raniganj Coalfield during the period April—December, 1990 mainly on account of inadequate and irregular power supply to coal mines in the Eastern Region. As a result, despatch of steam coal to pottery units fell short of target. However, from January, 91 onwards the production as well as loading of coal has picked up and more steam coal is being supplied to these consumers.

Status of Air Hostesses in Air India

176. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that air hostesses of Air India are not treated at par with their male counterparts, the flight pursers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the conditions imposed on air hostesses who wish to continue beyond the age of 35 years are humiliating in nature;

(c) whether the status of senior air hostesses like Chief Air hostess, the Additional Chief Air Hostess and the Deputy Chief Air Hostess is at the junior most position in the officer's cadre; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remove the anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) Air hostesses and Flight pursers in Air India are separate categories governed by a different set of rules, regulations and service conditions.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Non-utilisation of amount sanctioned for expansion of Civil Airport, Jodhpur

177. SHRI B. L. PANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for non-utilisation of the amount sanctioned for the expansion of the Civil Airport at Jodhpur and for providing passenger amenities;

(b) how much amount has since been utilised so far;

(c) by when the total amount is likely to be utilised; and

(d) whether additional amount is proposed to be sanctioned to meet the requirements of the planned development of the Jodhpur Civil Airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) to (d) The passenger amenities like Water coolers, Air-conditioners etc. have been provided at Jodhpur airport. For expansion of terminal building, Car Park etc., a provision was made in the National Airports Authority's Annual Plan 1989-90 but due to paucity of funds the work could not be taken up by the Authority. The work to extend and modify the existing terminal building is projected for 1991-92 subject to availability of adequate funds.

Passenger traffic at Civil Airport Jodhpur

178. SHRI B. L. PANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of passengers boarding for and arriving by